

Amateur Radio at Pioneer Village

Amateur Radio returns to Pioneer Village the weekend of June 24th and 25th. The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club (known as MRAC) will be participating in annual Field Day activities from the historic train depot. Field Day is practice for amateur radio operators to test out their ability to operate in 'the field' as if under emergency conditions like during the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. Operations begin at 1 PM on Saturday and run through Sunday afternoon. This year is special as amateur radio celebrates 100 years of voice communications on the radio with the "Hello" celebration. Visit www.hello-radio.org to learn more.



Field Day is always held on the fourth full weekend of June as the climax of the week long "Amateur Radio Week" sponsored by the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national Association of Amateur Radio. The purpose of the event is to practice and prove hams are able to send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, the Internet

or any other infrastructure that might be compromised in a crisis. During Field Day each year, ham radio operators set up communications at remote locations using power sources that vary between solar power, batteries, generators and commercial power. These 'field' operations take place in locations ranging from parks to shopping malls. Hams in the US, Canada and South America participate.

The setting for the MRAC field day is the historic train depot at Pioneer Village. The history of the railroad and the telegraph are the perfect background for this event.

Visitors are welcome to come and try amateur radio for themselves. MRAC will sponsor a G.O.T.A. (Get On The Air) station where people of all ages may participate by getting on air under the guidance of a licensed ham. Visitors will be able to see different methods of communication, the different radios, the different antennas hams use and learn about the wide variety of activities that make up amateur radio. The famous ladder antenna is always a visitor favorite. This really is a perfect opportunity to learn about amateur radio. Please come and visit! Ask any of the ham operators for a tour guide and be sure to see it all.

INTRODUCING AMATEUR RADIO TO FUTURE HAMS AT FIELD DAY

